



City of Freeport

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 2, 4:00 PM

Council Chambers, Freeport City Hall

Council Members Present: Councilwoman Elizabeth Brannon, Councilwoman Amanda Green, Councilman Eddie Farris, Councilman Mark Martin, Councilwoman Elizabeth Haffner

Council Member Absent: Mayor Russ Barley

Staff Members Present: City Manager Charlie Simmons, City Clerk Malani Robinson, City Attorney Clay Adkinson, Finance Officer Sara Bowers

1. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 PM by Councilman Farris in the Council Chambers of Freeport City Hall.

2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

The invocation was given by Councilwoman Haffner, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

3. Wastewater Treatment Facility Expansion Bid Readvertisement

Engineer Rouchaleau informed the Council that the bid documents that were prepared for today's meeting would not suffice for proper bid documents. After speaking to City Attorney Adkinson regarding the documents Engineer Rouchaleau discovered there was a miscommunication on what the Council requested, however, he expressed his ability to explain the new bid documents if Council were willing to listen to the alternative solution. Councilwoman Green reminded Engineer Rouchaleau that the Council agreed to hold a Special Meeting if the bid documents were prepared and ready for review. The Council expressed their disappointment and disapproval

of the lack of preparedness for the schedule meeting, noting that Engineer Knauer should have intervened or helped. City Manager Simmons explained that the conversation with Rural Development did not occur until today to outline the type of bid documents that were efficient, and that he was just as disappointed as Council. Council Members expressed the need to enforce a strict timeline on Dewberry to ensure that items and projects are completed by deadlines set by Council. Councilwoman Green noted her concerns about meeting the deadline to submit the documents to Rural Development. City Attorney Adkinson gave counsel recommending that Council approve a bid package as soon as possible, noting the standards Council approved in the previous Council Meeting. City Attorney Adkinson noted that the competitive negotiation rule the Council chose to implement in the new bid documents was a new process for the City, however it allowed them to keep the project within budget throughout each phase. City Attorney Adkinson elaborated on the criteria set by Council to ensure Engineer Rouchaleau understood that the City wanted a two-phase plan to get the facility running at two-million gallons a day. Councilman Farris noted the importance of Engineer Rouchaleau working closely and communicating with City Attorney Adkinson on projects, to keep the City on schedule with projects. Engineer Rouchaleau was given the opportunity to present the plan of action for obtaining grant funding and the revised design for the plant build. Councilwoman Green expressed her concerns about revisions on the plant build, specifically the digester. Engineer Jones noted that Dewberry initially designed a plant with 1.5 MDG however the City requested a 2 MDG, therefore the initial digester they had in mind would not have the capacity to meet the requirements. Councilwoman Haffner queried on who would be working alongside Engineer Rouchaleau to ensure that the bid documents would be prepared in a timely manner. City Manager Simmons assured the Council that the documents would be prepared by Saturday at the latest and ready for presentation at the next Regular Council Meeting.

4. Adjournment

Councilman Farris motioned to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 4:27 PM.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk